### BLACK BASS OF POCAHON-TAS COUNTY

Some Facts and Theories Concerning this King of Game Fishes

Those who have endeavored to gain information about the most noted where both species abound. The red American game-fish, the black bass, in the eye is an infallible sign of the from the ordinary books of reference must have been struck with the fact sign of the big mouth. The fishes are that there is little to be found in realike to the casual observer. As to gard to this important fish, the purthelity good points as a food or game suit of which is perhaps the most unifish there is nothing to choose. It versal of all the sports of America. is all a figment about the small mouth The people of the United States have being gamer than the big mouth. It ous of any race in history. It does nates in the colder latitudes and in not take much of a philosopher to the clear mountain streams, and that know that there is great danger in the big mouth is found in more placid such a condition. To such a people, waters and in the warmer south, but the roads of destiny are open. It is for them to choose. We can enumerdoor life. They can go to war. Or

Fifty years ago the people of this country were kept lean and in a good, fighting condition by poverty. Any with that wealth have come the dan- the excitement. citizen and his country can depend upon him in time of need.

have been made from time to time nity that they call upon him. about the black bass, and to get into. that it is a purely American fish, and Mississippi waters, had no bass. the scientists of Europe have had insufficient knowledge to classify it in that the fish was first noticed in Dr. James A. Henshall, of Bozeman,

reason to regret the choice, and during the same period I have found him ing the same period I have found him the water's edge, was fan-like in shape, right as to his theories and fact as to and most carefully kept. This was the

All scientists know the reason of the Latin names that are given to plants and animals. Aristotle complained that the same fish bore different names in different sections of the country and he attempted to se-cure a uniformity in this respect and party succeeded. In regard to the black bass, and his Latin names, it is a peculiar thing that it constitutes an exception, and the name black bass is the name by which it is most surely known, with the two subdivisions, the small mouth and the big mouth. These two fishes have had no less than forty-six Latin names given them by naturalists of France, Germany, England and other countries. names helped none at all, to identify the fish, and the result is that all over the world, naturalists have fallen upon the name black bass, the name of common parlance in this country, to identify the fish. The names that the naturalists of

today are trying to establish, and to given to the small mouth black bass, by Lacepede, in 1802, which is Micropterus Dolomieu, and to the big mouth

If you will take the trouble to translate Latin names you will find that they are more or less appropriate to the thing described. For instance, thing described. For instance, the black bass is known as a member of the serranoid family. In other words, it is a saw-fish, and the fisherman knows at the end of a successful day that the bass is a prominent sulated world. The member of this family.

The common name of micropterus means little-fin. It is hard to see how this applies to the black bass, but the is still preserved and upon examination of this particular fish it is seen that in life that it had seen that it had seen that it had seen that it is seen that that in life that it had suffered an injury of the dorsal fin, whereby the exnaturalist to be common in the species caused him to adopt the name. Another name means beautiful-tail and that is not specially appropriate, and still another, grystes, means growler and no man ever heard a black bass growl.

bass in Georgia and other Southern

Anglers have difficulty in distin-It has been many years ago that I saw Fred Mather's lines on the differences between these two fishes tersons Creek, and the North and and they stick in the memory, and as South Branches, and a writer in the an aid to memory, I do not think that the fishing is fine. The little-mouth has little scales,

There's red in his handsome eye; The scales extend on his vertical fins. And his forehead is round and high.

His forehead is full and high; my boys, And he sleeps the winter through; He likes the rocks in the su

The big-mouth has the biggest scales,

And a pit scooped in his head; His mouth is cut beyond the eye, In which is nary red.

In his eye there is nary red, my boys But keen and well he sees; He has a dark stripe on his side,

Micropterus salmoides. That short poem is full of informa tion for any person who is fishing small mouth and its absence is sure become the richest and most luxuri- is true that the small mouth predomi-

the big mouth attains a larger size. The fighting weight of both fishes ate three courses they may pursue. however, reaches its culmination at they can embrace such ideas of out the two-pound limit. After that what it makes up in weight it loses in ac-

There is probably no thrill known to man that affects him stronger than the fierce and vicious strike of the black bass, claiming the lure with all ing the wolf from the door knows that the assurance of a king, and making there is nothing better to insure a kingly resistance to the effort to mental and physical health. But the withdraw him from the water. It is accumulations of the American peo-ple have brought them wealth and does not give way under the stress of

gers and temptations incident to the The original distribution of the black condition. What was folly fifty years bass was between the divides formed ago is wisdom now. No hunter, no by the Rocky Mountains on the west fisherman has ever waved the red and the Allegany Mountains on the flag of anarchy. He escapes the idleness that leads to vice. He is a good misfortune to be detained by the formalities of the police court, his address was the Mississippi Valley. This gen-It has been in my mind for some tleman desired that if his hosts should time to arrange a lot of notes that ever find themselves in that commu-

This distribution is given as being the record something about this most general, but we know that some interesting fish concerning which streams did not have this fish in anthere is the utmost confusion among cient times, because forty years ago, the icthyologists. The main reason is the Greenbrier River, a part of the

The most authentic accounts show a proper and uniform manner. In our wheeling Creek, of which more here-own country I consider that the late after. Not long ago I struck a most peculiar fish story in regard to the Montana, is the best authority on the bass in the Ohio River. In 1806, Col. subject, and that he has done more Ashe, an English tourist, was travelthan ony other man to clarify the ing in the country and was dropping subject, and the close observer will down the Ohio River in a flat boat. find that he has seen this fish as Hen- At the mouth of the Little Kanawha shall saw it. In addition to his own experiences he has digested the writings of authorities of the old country, and separated the wheat from the chaff. I desire to acknowledge him as an authority from which I take much of this paper.

Over twenty years ago, I adopted as the proper implement of my profession, the Henshall black bass rod, and I have never had the slightest.

At the mouth of the Little Kanawha he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than he careless sportsmen have accomplished without expense more than they will be twelve inches long and they will be twelve inches long and without expense more than they will be twelve inches long and they will be twelve inches long and without expense more than they will be twelve inches long and they will be twelve inches long and they will be twelve inches long and will be fat and weigh about a pound. It is these two-year-olds that are guantities every year in this county. After the two-year-olds that are sought in such immense quantities every year in this county. After the two-year-old period, they grow fast or slow according to the food supply. I am quite sure that it is possible to take he waters of the poles. The law is they will be twelve inches long and they will be fat and weigh about a pound. It is these two The lawn in front of this house comprised a hundred acres, came down to

the enterprises of Aaron Burr. At this house, Ashe stopped for the night and was delighted with the cultivated people that he found there. He says that it was tea-time, and he says that refreshment was served and conducted with a propriety and elegance such as he had never witnessed out of Britain. After tea the house party walked down to the river where the boat was tied up, and then Col. Ashe invited them all to a fish supper on the shore, at which the ladies went set about the business, and the Colo-It is needless to say that these Latin It was night time and a full moon was the party got into the boat and went torch he had prepared and let it shine on the water which attracted the fish to the surface, and there they speared we subscribe, is the name less than a half hour, and returned o the small mouth black bass. with the torch still burning, all hands singing, "The Beauteous months as singing, "The Beauteous Months as Charmething as charm-"The Beauteous Month of black bass, in the same year by the she had never seen anything as charm-

Ashe said that the fish came to the surface and that he speared them while gazing at the blaze and that it astonished the natives of the little inwithout a doubt, were black bass. I our noted game warden, the Hon. Mr. Viquesney, has a drop of sporting blood in his veins he will let some of specimen sent from America to Paris us try the torch and spear act, law or

About 1850, it was discovered that bass could be easily transplanted from one stream to another. That bass treme back end had been separated thrived in a miraculous manner when from the main fin and formed a minute fin. This being taken by the ages had become filled with soft-finned naturalist to be common in the specifishes which furnished food for the new comers. The most notable of all the plant

ings was the introduction of bass in the waters of the Potomac. In 1854, General William Shriver was a citizen of Wheeling, and enjoyed the fish-The name dolomieu means only that ing in Wheeling Creek. He was a na it was an attempt on the part of the tive of Cumberland, Maryland. Soon naturalist to honor his very dear after the completion of the Baltimore friend, M. Dolomieu, a noted geolo & Ohio Railway, General Shriver segist, who by the way is the same man cured thirty small specimens of the after whom the crystaline limestone, small mouth bass, and placing them in a tin bucket which was perforated, Salmoides the distinguishing name he put the bucket in the tank of a loof the big mouth means trout-like and comotive and these bass were let is suggested by the local name for loose in the canal at Cumberland. In less than ten years, the Potomac and its tributaries were well stocked with bass from this beginning. In that time guishing the big mouth from the small they had found their way into the Sen eca, Shenandoah, Cherry Creek, Sleepy Creek, Great and Little Cacapon, Pat

> The dam of the South Fork Fishing Club, which club was composed of Pittsburg sportsmen, was a very suc-cessful black bass enterprise, until the great flood broke it, and caused the terrible disaster at Johnstown, in 1889. The fate of this dam has had a deterrent effect on like ventures of persons interested in the propagation of bass. It is pretty generally accepted that the black bass can hold its own against every thing except a poo food supply, and that it needs the least

planted in Europe, but it is not widely

distributed there.

a sign: unnecessary. We do not drink of the struction by one bass by another streams unless we know that there is

the stream. well bridge in 1876, resulted in the speedy stocking of about two thou angler's feet as sand miles of water within a few

enough silver dollars to pave a uni- to ten inches in length. versal highway from the mouth of Seneca to the moon.

The black bass would make a good home of Herman Blannerhasset, the national emblem. The trouble about the eagle is that we have to share ing himself to new conditions, mon-

arch of all he surveys. hension. It is with some satisfaction into ecstasies. The Colonel's servants that we record the intelligence that and in the bright sun cleanse them the bass displays in rearing its young. selves and take up life again.
We have never heard of any fish of
We can imagine a big blace similar habits. Fish as a rule lay shining. He and the gentlemen of their eggs and swim away not knowcarefully as a hen, and after the

assistance of all desirable fishes. It has another excellent quality in that while it is a predatory fish, it is not like the pike family, the members of which make destruction of other fish their main business in life. It is true that bass will devour small fish of other species, but they allow other kinds of fish to thrive in the same waters, and after a time the different from the pebbles all sand, silt and ters, and after a time the different from the pablies all sand, slit and stocking of bass become balanced again and the figh life goes on under the same waters to the different from the pablies all sand, slit and vegetable matter, and removing the larger obstacles with their mouths. This gives to the beds a bright, clean, with the same waters and statement of the same waters and statement of the same waters. a stocking of bass become balanced larger obstacles with their mouths. This gives to the beds a bright, clean, the readjustment of conditions, and the black bass is always a welcome addition to any new home that is given him.

This fish has been successfully planted in Furning but it is not widely pending upon the temperature of the pending upon the temperature of the

water. In most fish the young fry are pro-There is no important stream in West Virginia but what has its com-plement of bass. There are many streams where they have been kept enough to hunt, but in the young bass back and have not flourished on ac- this is not the case. They are percount of the use of the waters in con- feetly formed from the first and but are carried away and disintegrated and deposited after the manner of nature in keeping the earth wholesome and sweet. However much we may regret the discomfort that results to the fish, we recognize that the health hook, the more apt it is to be seized of the communities depends upon the cleansing that the streams afford. The furlated bass. Protection of bass on hardy black bass can stand more of this sort of use than any other fish. They say that in the Grand Canyon on the Bright Angel Trail, there is a clear stream on the banks of which is a sign; "Sawer Wester De National Canyon of the Stream of the banks of which is a sign; "Sawer Wester De National Canyon of the Stream of the banks of which is a sign; "Sawer Wester De National Canyon of the Stream of the Str "Sewer Water. Do Not are eliminated It is stated that after Sewer water is so common the end of three weeks this ceases in West Virginia that such signs are and from that time on there is no de-

The growth of bass depends largely no human life on the basin drained by upon the food supply. The first summer they attain the length of two There has never been anything like inches. The second summer they are the hardihood of the bass unless it is seen in great abundance and are the case of the despised English spar- about four inches long. Occasionally row. A few dozen bass dropped into the Greenbrier River from the Cald-hook, but they are not troublesome. They generally play around the

water. years. Since that time probably five million black bass of sufficient size have attained the length of from eight have been taken from the waters of to twelve inches, depending upon the the Greenbrier with hook and line. food supply. From long years of ob-Since that time, an acre of water has servation, I would say that a bass in Since that time, an acre of water has compared favorably in value with an acre of cultivated land. The bass idea is stupendous. By reason of the providential gift of this great fish, a few careless sportsmen have accom-

bass, taken by A. N. Cheney, at Glen Falls, New York; weight 111/2 pounds, length 25 inches. Big-mouth bass, him with so many countries. The taken by H. W. Ross, at Altoona, black bass is like the pioneer, adapt- Florida, 23 pounds and 2 ounces, length 371/2 inches.

In the winter time, the bass gather Fish live in a different element and in the deepest water, and each bass there is considerable difference of makes for itself a winter nest under opinion as to whether they have any masses of weeds in ponds or lakes, appreciable amount of intelligence. I and in streams deep in the mud or in have always ranked it as very low the crevices of the rock, and there and considered that any fish that they hibernate the whole of the cold could not connect in its mind the re- weather, or during the time that the lation between the hook and the line water is of the temperature of 55 demust be wonderfully dull of compre- grees or less. In the spring, these bass come forth in a very untidy condition

We can imagine a big black bass waking up on some warm morning towards the last of March, and rubbing the party got into the boat and went ing what they have done nor caring the silt out of his eyes, or rather off across the current to the bank of the for posterity. Not so with the black his eyes, for he is pop-eyed, and sayriver. Here the Colonel took the large bass. They make a nest and deposit ing to himself, "My word, I am filthy from two thousand to twenty thou- I must have a bath!" So said, so done. sand eggs and watch over them as He finds a place where the water runs swift over the pebbles and he scours young bass are hatched, the parents himself on the bottom, and rinses him protect them from enemies until they self off in the water, turning his big can fend for themselves. I have sides up in the sunlight, glad that the watched the process many times in winter is over and that he is alive

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Marlinton, West Virginia.

breaking the ground for a family nest. In May, the neighbors say unto each "Hear the news about that bass family that lives under the wil-

low just above the mouth of the run? They had quite an addition to the fam-Twenty thousand children were born to them last night. Old Man Bass jumped twenty feet in a circle." But the neighbors do not call. They know that they will get the stuffing knocked out of them if they show a friendly interest in the event

I have never caught either a weasle or a bass asleep. I know that on some day about the first of October they disappear from the shallows and gathnection with human activities. This so called pollution is a provision of nature by which unhealthy substances fish guard the nest with the utmost er by the tens of thousands in the eddy nourishment. In the old days, when the Greenbrier was lined with deer standers at this time of year, they would see these idle, indolent bass turning up their sides as broad as meat platters, in the clear water, but shortly after this time they would hole up in the crevices and be seen no

I have never talked with a man who had ever seen a bass in the winter time in West Virginia. In New York a channel was changed

in the winter time to enable the old channel to be deepened. Hundreds of torpid bass were found in the slime and in the crevices of the rocks. At Glen Falls, New York, a man drew in a sunken log for firewood. The log was hollow, and when he saw-

ed into it he found six small-mouthed black bass weighing from one-half to two pounds. A pet black bass in a spring on the approach of winter burrowed under an old stump and prepared to go into

winter quarters. I have given much thought to the question of the small-mouth bass of the Greenbrier River and its tributaries. My theory about these waters is that they are the best in the world for the breeding of bass, but that the food supply is very poor. This is the only way that I can account for the vast number of small bass, and the comparative scarcity of big fish, espe-

them to reach the broad highway that the river affords to other lands. But we ought not to complain

the waters of this county. Up to date the fish have not become scarce enough to be appreciated by the angler. Fishing is still too much on the order of a surething to afford the zest of a sport. And for goods that the gods provide, we give thanks and take. ANDREW PRICE. Marlinton, W. Va.

## YELK

Misses Lizzie and Allie Gibson re on the sick list.

James Gibson has been confined to his room for several days with cold and grip.

Several of our people attended he horse sale at Marlinton Sat-James Judy was in Webster

county on business recently.

The Sunday school at Mary's Chapel is progressing nicely with Mr. Judy superintendent: Sunday school every Sunday afternoon at two o'clock. There will singing after Sunday school next Sunday the 30th.

Mr. Berry Forrest Gibson were at Cloverlick recently. Russell Hannah was at Lin-

wood on business. J. J. McGraw was over from

Marlinton a few days ago. Jack Cruixsbanks and wife have returned after a few days abence.

Marvin Courtney and wife have after having spent some time at Marlinton. Earl Gilmore is laid up with a

case of gripp. Miss Mary Jackson has been visiting relatives near Marlinton.

The schools in this section are progressing nicely this winter. Willie Gibson and wife are both very much indisposed with gripp.

J. D. Gibson and Winters Gibson were at the county seat on business a few days ago. Mrs. W. H. Dilley, of Dilley's Mill, who spent the winter here,

has returned to her home. Lee McLaughlin of Hillsboro, was here on business this week. E. H. Williams of Marlinton, was her doing some surveying last

Mrs. Sallie McGuire, Mrs. Lottie Gibson, Berdie Varner and Jettie Showalter were visiting the sick at Joe Gibson's Sunday.

## Attention

As my shop, tools and stock were burned a few weeks ago, it is important that every dollar on my books be collected at once. I need the money to get back into business again.

C. W. SLAVIN.

# Marlinton General Hospital Marlinton, W. Va.

## DR. HARRY C. SOLTER

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### CLUB NOTES

General Membership Regulations For All Club Members By County Agent, Burt Johnson.

1. Cub members must be beage on January 1st of any given tional club by sending his card 2. Any other person may be an ment,

associate member and will be entitled to all privileges of regular state champion is barred from membership except that of competing for prizes or awards 3. All enrollment closes June

of any given year. 4. Only those who have filled out an enrollement card each year and have had it recorded at the will be allowed to compete for a

5. Club members must agree to

his own crop and do his own work; glad to see the young other help is necessary, permission of same will be allowed by when the fishing is as good as it is in the state agent in charge of club work when ample reason has been presented to him in writing.

7. Regular attendance at all meetings of the local club is required.

8. Club members will study instructions carefully and get all possible information from successful growers of their specialty, and then decide upon their own method of procedure and follow it care-

riculturial clubs, Morgantown, Virginia News.

10. Anyone enrolled in the local county, or state club is also a member of the National Boys' Farm Clubs.

11. Boys not within reach of a local club organization may enween ten and eighteen years of roll in the county, state, and nadirect to the Extension Depart-

12. Any boy who is once a competing in the same contest.

The fourth meeting of the Greenbank reading circle met at Greenbank, Jan. 15, 1916. The following teachers were present: Agricultural Extension Depart Mrs. Mary Gladwell, Ethel Snodment of West Viaginia University grass, Flossie Conrad, Flora Gillispie, Fronie Flynn, Stella Orndoff, Flandie Philips, Verdie B. Mann, Lottie Edminston, O. E. study the Instruction Sheets sent Hodge, Willie Sheets, Jesse Judy. to them by the Extension Depart- This was an excellent meeting bout ten inches. The ment of the College of Agricultte streams are much werage than those in a fact that the college of Agricult teachers were discussed by the chairman and teacher. We were and on the emigration theory. The if a small boy, he may hire help take part and feel that all had food is more plentiful in the small for the heavy plowing in the prep-streams and the bass do not leave aration of the seed bed. In case and will go back to their schools feeling that the reading circle has been a great benefit to them. Our worthy chairman Prof. O. E. Hodge is doing his best to make these meetings a great success. We hope to see a good attendance at our next meeting at Arbovale, February 12, 1916. We were very glad to see so many visitors present, and hope they all will be with us again at our next meeting. Verdie B. Mann.

> Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Denison, of Denmar, were visitors in the city 9. When it is necessary for a Monday. Mr. Denison left on club member to deviate from the the afternoon train for Hagers-Contest Regulations special per- town to attend the annual meetings mission must be secured from the of the Maryland Lumber Co., and state agent in charge of boys' ag- the Denison Lumber Co .- West



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